

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 17, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 5.

Then, at the time of the torque transmission, the axial protrusions 4 of the torque transmitting portion are brought into contact with the axial grooves 6 to perform a task of torque transmission. On the other hand, in the preloading portion, the ~~leaf spring~~ elastic member 8 is elastically deformed to restrain the ~~spherical members~~ rolling members 7 in the circumferential direction between the male shaft 1 and the female shaft 2, thereby preventing backlash.

Page 17, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 18.

Further, when the torque is increased, the axial protrusion 4 of the torque transmitting portion is brought into strong contact with a side of the axial groove 6 so that the axial protrusion 4 receives a reaction force more strongly than the ~~spherical member~~ rolling members 7, whereby the torque is transmitted mainly by the torque transmitting portion. For this reason, in the first embodiment, it is possible to securely prevent backlash in

the direction of rotation of the male shaft 1 and the female shaft 2 and, at the same time, to transmit the torque in a state of high rigidity.

Page 28, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 25.

On the telescopic shaft constituted as described above, the axial protrusion 14 and the axial groove 16 serving as the torque transmitting portion are spline-fitted to each other between the male shaft 1 and the female shaft 2 and, at the same time, the rolling members 7 are interposed between the axial groove 3 and the axial groove 5 through the elastic member 8 so that the preload is given to the rolling members 7 and the axial protrusions 14 by the elastic member 8 to the extent to generate no backlash with respect to the female shaft 2.

Page 29, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 17.

When a torque is transmitted, a spline-fitting portion between the axial protrusion 14 and the axial groove 16 of the torque transmitting portion functions to mainly perform

the task of torque transmission, and the elastic member 8 is elastically deformed in the preloading portion to restrain the ~~spherical member 7~~ rolling members 7 between the male shaft 1 and the female shaft 2 in the circumferential direction, thereby preventing backlash.

Page 37, please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at line 11.

The contact pressure of the ball is not higher than 1500 Mpa in a state where no torque is applied thereon.  
The contact pressure of the ball is not higher than 2000 Mpa in a state where a torque of 100 Nm is applied thereon.  
The contact pressure of the axial protrusion is not higher than 2000 Mpa in a state where a torque of 100 Nm is applied thereon.